

Clearspring Middle School Newsletter

February 2015



Principal's Message

The end of January marks the halfway point for our school year. That "mark" is a good time to take stock of how our school year is going. We begin each school year with a school plan that help us focus on some key areas of learning in our school. This year, there are two key areas of learning that drive our decisions at school – literacy and numeracy. In addition to these key areas, we had two important but less formal goals: we want to continue to create a safe, vibrant learning community, and we wanted to reduce the "busyness" of school in order to increase opportunity for students to focus on learning. Some things we are noticing:

- The spread of guided reading and literacy circles that focus on improving reading.
- A strong emphasis on writing skills, with most teachers using a program called 6+1 Trait Writing.
- Math groups that are focusing on building fundamental math skills.
- Reducing the busyness is giving greater opportunity for students to focus on literacy and numeracy skills.
- The overall feeling in the school is a sense of calm, energized learning.

Some of these goals were strongly influenced by parents who have contacted us with suggestions for improvement and kudos for things we do well. We appreciate both types of communication. Thank you.

Although we are seeking to be less busy, we have still planned for some great learning trips to take place in February. Each of our neighbourhoods is planning a special learning event in February, so there will be an increase in "busyness". Thank you for supporting these learning trips.

We are aware that sometimes the cost of this extra learning can put a strain on family resources, and are committed to ensuring that every student has the opportunity to participate. The school and the Parent Advisory Council have created a partnership to help pay the costs for families who are experiencing some financial stress. Please call the school to talk with your child's teacher or with one of the principals to access this support.

Principal:
Ed Neufeld

Vice Principal:
Merrilee Plett

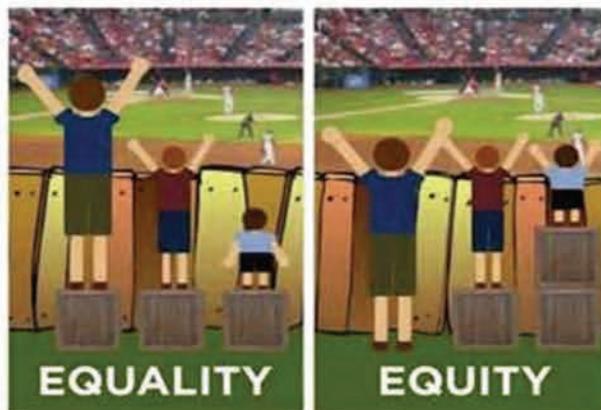
Secretaries:
Tammy Nye
Cheryl Thiessen

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

On Friday, Jan 30, Kindergarten to Grade 8 teachers listened to University of Winnipeg Education Professor Kevin Lameroux talk to us about some of the issues facing students who struggle to learn. One major point that many of us took from his talk is that the central problem facing many students who struggle is poverty. The cartoon illustrates that point. That talk has us talking at CMS. We want to improve outcomes for all students, including those whose families are struggling to make ends meet. We are not always sure if our efforts are on target, and welcome your input to help us make sure we look for ways to support all of our students.

Cartoon from: <https://jodiannburey.files.wordpress.com/2014/11/health-equity.jpg>

Watching the Game



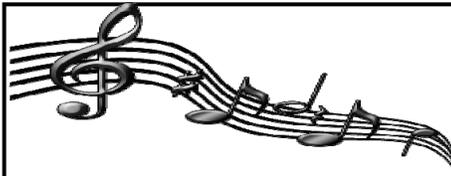
Clearspring
Middle
School

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Steinbach, MB
R5G 0Y2
204-346-9644

February 20th -Grade 5 Voyageur Day Volunteers Needed

Voyageurs of the fur trade era have made a significant impact to our Manitoba French culture. It is for this reason that on February 20th, our grade 5 students will be celebrating these incredible Canadians by participating in Voyageur related activities at school. This experience will hopefully enhance the students' appreciation of the French culture and ties in very well with our Basic French Program.

To help make sure this day runs smoothly we will need a few volunteers. If you are available to help us during this day, please email or phone your child's teacher.



Notes from our
CMS Music
Dept

The grade 7&8 Band students are selling cookies and muffins to fundraise. All money and papers are due on Feb.12

Clearspring Middle School—Athletics Report

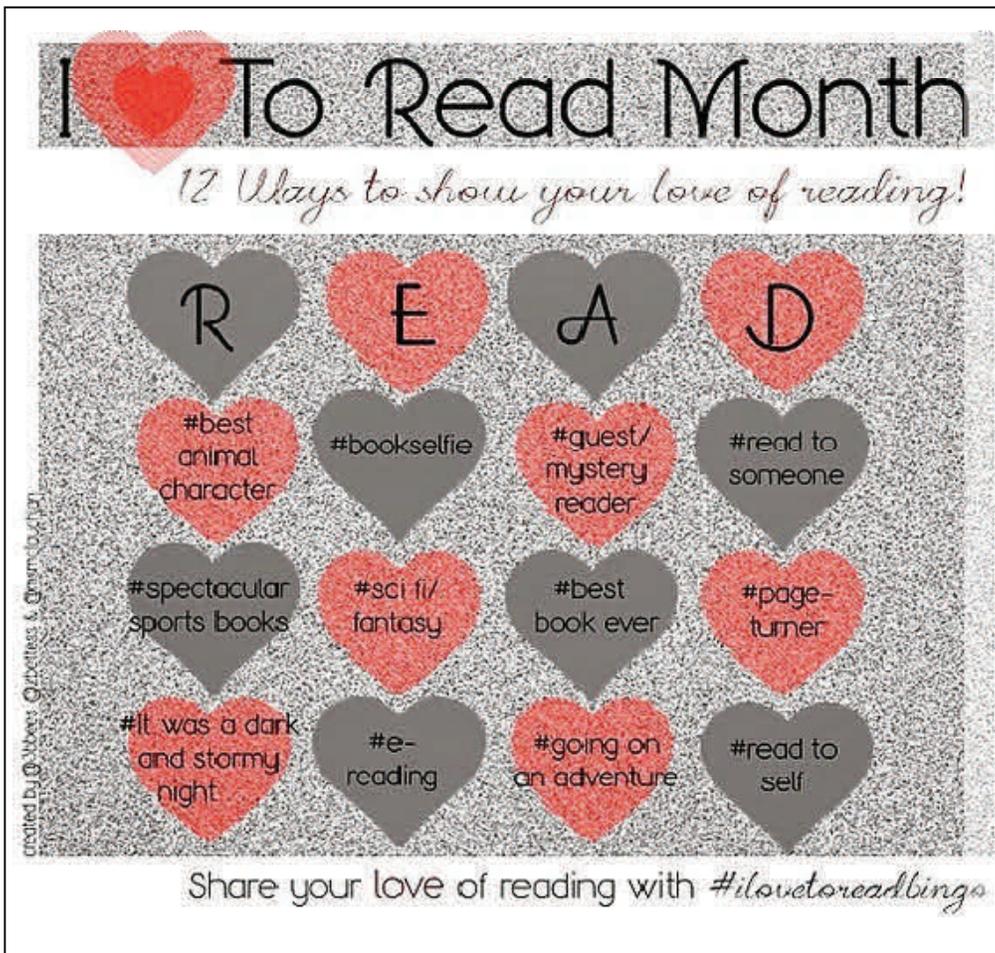
Basketball season is in full swing! All Grade 7-8 teams are currently competing in the HSD league, where they are continuing to develop their skills and also experiencing many individual and team successes. Grade 8 Basketball Finals are scheduled for Monday March 16, at SRSS.

Grade 5 After School Basketball begins on Wednesday, February 4th, and Grade 6 Basketball begins on Friday February 6th. Permission forms for these activities went home last week.

Thank you to the many coaches who have volunteered their time to make our basketball season happen!

- Mr. John Loewen – Grade 5 Basketball
- Ms. Sara Heese – Grade 5 Basketball
- Mr. A.J. Neufeld – Grade 6 Basketball
- Mr. Trevor Paton – Grade 7 Boys Basketball
- Mr. Paul Reimer – Grade 7 Boys Basketball
- Ms. Kelsey Harpman - Grade 7 Girls Basketball
- Mr. Wayne Elias – Grade 8 Boys Basketball
- Mr. Kevin Martens – Grade 8 Girls Basketball

CMS is always looking for volunteer coaches to work with our athletes; if you are interested in coaching or assistant coaching at any level from Grade 5-8, please contact Mr. A.J. Neufeld (aneufeld@hsd.ca) or Mr. Trevor Paton (tpaton@hsd.ca).



February is I Love to Read month in Manitoba schools. Our theme for the month is “Literacy is a Human Right”.

Throughout the month, students will learn about the barriers that children in developing countries face in order to attain an education. We will also celebrate how fortunate we are to live in a country where we can attend school and gain the skills necessary to live a good life.

We celebrate I Love to Read to intensely focus on reading and writing as a skill for life, and we would like to encourage every child to read (something... anything!) at home every day. There will be weekly draws through the library to celebrate those students and classes that love to read.

For lots more information on how you can encourage your child to read at home, check out the following link: <http://www.nationalreadingcampaign.ca/>

February 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Gr 7's at Cedarwood	5 Gr. 7's at Cedarwood	6 Gr. 7's at Cedarwood	7
8	9 Book Fair	10 Book Fair	11 Book Fair	12 Book Fair	13	14
15	16 No Classes Louis Riel Day	17	18 Gr 6 Learning trip	19 CMS Options Day	20 Gr 5 Festival du Voyageur/ Gr 8 Learning Trip	21
22	23	24 Empty Bowls	25	26	27 No Classes PD Day	28

CMS Canteen

Milk/ Chocolate Milk.....	\$1.00
Bottled Water.....	\$0.75
Juice Box.....	\$0.75
Gatorade.....	\$2.00
TCBY Frozen Yogurt.....	\$2.00
Cheese Strings.....	\$0.50
Jello pudding (chocolate, butterscotch, vanilla).....	\$0.50
Fruit To Go.....	\$0.50
Hot Rod pepperoni sticks.....	\$0.50
Granola bars.....	\$0.50
Mini Ritz/Cheese sandwiches.....	\$0.50
Nachos and cheese.....	\$3.00
Mr. Noodles Soup – Beef or chicken flavoured.....	\$1.50
Plastic fork/ spoon.....	\$0.10



<u>Daily Hot Lunch Items</u>		
Monday	Special Fundraiser Lunch or Taco Del Mar Quesadilla (steak or chicken)	\$3.75
Tuesday	DQ Double Cheese Burger	\$3.50
Wednesday	Rocco's Pizza	\$2.00
Thursday	Main Bread & Butter Chicken Noodle Soup & Bun	\$3.50
Friday	Turkey/Ham or Cold Cut Sub	\$3.75



LOOKING FOR CANTEEN VOLUNTEERS

The canteen is in need of a few more parents that might be willing to give up a small amount of time to help out with our lunch/canteen at CMS. This is a shift that requires you being there from 11:30 until about 1:00pm. We would be happy to have you once per month, 2X per month, 3X per month or weekly! It's a fantastic way to be involved at the school, get to know some of the kids, and connect with some other parents of the students at CMS. If you could find a day that you'd like to join our team and help us out, give Stacy a call at 204-326-1114 or email kandsharder@gmail.com

Attendance - Please Help Us Out!

When students are absent and parents have not informed us we call each family to ensure the safety of our students. Please help us out by calling 204-346-9644 or emailing cms@hsd.ca to let us know if your child will be absent. This helps us out and means you won't need to get a phone call from us that day.